

AVOYELLES



PARISH

“...the health of a community is a shared responsibility of many entities, organizations and interests in the community, including health services delivery organizations, public health agencies, other public and private entities and the people of a community.”

– Institute of Medicine. 1996. *Healthy Communities: New Partnerships for the Future of Public Health*. National Academy Press. p. 12



Avoyelles Parish

Avoyelles Tourist Commission

Courthouse Building
301 North Main Street
Marksville, LA 71351
(318) 253-9208

Regional Office of Public Health

John Naponick, M.D.
Regional Administrator
Central Regional office
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History

Established as a parish on March 31, 1807, this parish takes its name from the Avoyelles Indians, the original inhabitants of the area. Many Indian relics from prehistoric times may be found. The French and Spanish settlers came up the Red River in the mid-18th century. During the Civil War, fighting took place at Fort De Russy, a Confederate fortification three miles northeast of Marksville. Other skirmishes took place at Mansura and Simmesport.

Culture and Recreation

Avoyelles Parish, the "Cajun Crossroads of Louisiana," is rich in French/Acadian traditions and rich in Indian culture, preserved by the Marksville Prehistoric Indian Park and Museum and the Tunica-Biloxi Indian Center and Museum, home of the famed Tunica-Biloxi Treasures Collection. Over 20,000 acres of lakes, bayous and rivers provide abundant fish and game. There are three state wildlife management areas and two national wildlife refuges. Some historic properties are available for specially arranged group tours. The Cochon-de-Lait Festival is held each May in Mansura, the Louisiana Corn Festival is held each June in Bunkie, and Cottonport has an exciting Christmas Parade each December.



Parish Seat¹ Marksville¹

Major Cities (over 5,000 population)²

Marksville

1990 5,526

1997 (estimate) 6,017

Bunkie

1990 5,044

1997 (estimate) 5,075

Parish Population²

1990 39,159

1997 (estimate) 41,102

Breakdown of 1996 population (estimates)⁶

White 70%

African American 30%

Other 0%

Male 49%

Female 51%



Population age 0-4	7%
Population age 65 & over	15%

Geography and Statistics²

Average elevation	82 ft.
Land area in square miles	832.5
Water area in square miles	33.2

Climate²

Average temperatures	
Annual	68°
January	50°
July	81°
Annual average rainfall	60 in.

Labor Force (1995)¹

Civilian	14,375
Employed	12,800
Unemployed	1,575
Unemployment	11%

Agriculture¹

Cotton, corn, soybeans and wheat.

Colleges/Universities²

(within one hour commute)

Louisiana College, Pineville

Louisiana State University, Alexandria

Public Libraries⁵ 6

References

- ¹ Louisiana Almanac. 1997. Louisiana Almanac, Pelican Press. Gretna, LA
- ² Louisiana Department of Economic Development. 1999. Louisiana Overview. keyword: overview <http://lled.state.la.us>
- ³ Louisiana Office of Tourism. 1998. keywords: regional information <http://www.crt.state.la.us/crt/tourism.htm>
- ⁴ Police Jury Association of Louisiana. <http://www.lpgov.org/>
- ⁵ State Library of Louisiana. keyword: directories <http://smt.state.lib.la.us/>
- ⁶ U.S. Bureau of the Census. 1998. Population Estimates. 1998. keywords: parish name <http://www.census.gov/datamap/www/22.html>

Educational Attainment (1990)⁷

Less than 5th grade	8.5%
High school graduate or higher	50.5%
Some college or higher	18.6%
Bachelor's degree or higher	7.4%

Major Employers (Products) and Number of Employees²

Private Employers

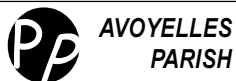
Grand Casino Avoyelles (Gaming)	1,100
Garan, Inc. (Garments)	200
Holiday Sportsware (Garments)	190

Public Employers

Avoyelles Parish School Board System (Education)	838
Avoyelle's Correctional Center (Government)	224
Bunkie General Hospital (Medical)	115

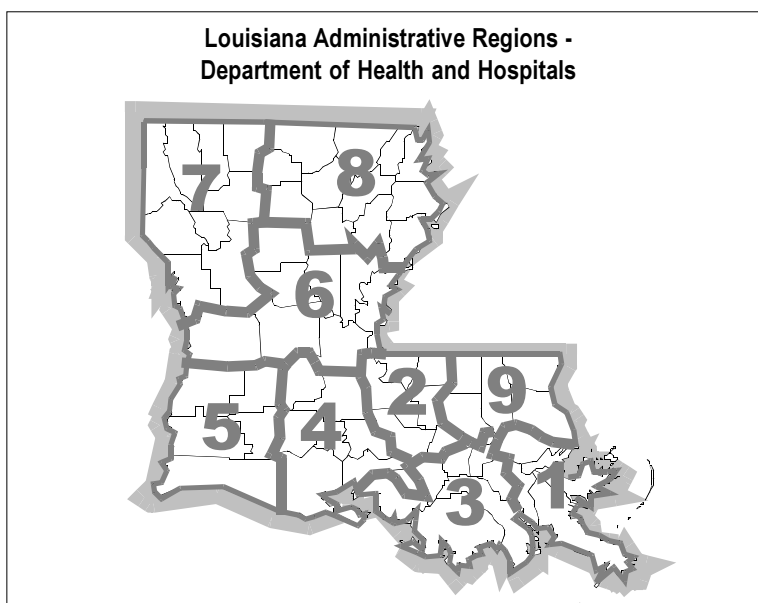
Poverty and Income

Persons in poverty (1995) ⁷	30.1%
Children under age 18 in poverty ⁷	41.1%
Per capita income (1996) ⁸	\$14,249



⁷ U.S. Bureau of the Census. 1998. keywords: people, poverty, small area income and poverty estimates <http://www.census.gov>

⁸ U.S. Department of Commerce, Economics and Statistics Administration. 1999. keywords: economics and statistical administration <http://www.doc.gov>.



Region 1

Jefferson
Orleans
Plaquemines
St. Bernard

Region 2

Ascension
East Baton Rouge
East Feliciana
Iberville
Pointe Coupee
West Baton Rouge
West Feliciana

Region 3

Assumption
Lafourche
St. Charles
St. James
St. John
St. Mary
Terrebonne

Region 4

Acadia
Evangeline
Iberia
Lafayette
St. Landry
St. Martin
Vermilion

Region 5

Allen
Beauregard
Calcasieu
Cameron
Jefferson Davis

Region 6

Avoyelles
Catahoula
Concordia
Grant
LaSalle
Rapides
Vernon
Winn

Region 7

Bienville
Bossier
Caddo
Claiborne
DeSoto
Natchitoches
Red River
Sabine
Webster

Region 8

Caldwell
East Carroll
Franklin
Jackson
Lincoln
Madison
Morehouse
Ouachita
Richland
Tensas
Union
West Carroll

Region 9

Livingston
St. Helena
St. Tammany
Tangipahoa
Washington